



WEBSTER

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Webster is a medium size community located in central Massachusetts on the Connecticut border. Founded by Samuel Slater in 1812, it was primarily an industrial center due to its abundant water supply. Both textiles and shoe factories flourished making Webster's population a combination of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

By far, the town's richest asset is its beautiful fresh-water, spring-fed Lake Chargoggagaggmanchaugagoggchaunagungamaugg. Water activities abound such as fishing, waterskiing, swimming, boating and sailing on this magnificent five mile long lake. Also located on its shores is the well-known "Indian Ranch", the New England home of Country Music which for many years has drawn visitors to Webster from all over the northeast.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

South central Massachusetts, bordered by Oxford on the north; Douglas on the east; Thompson, Connecticut, on the south; and separated by the French River from Dudley on the west. Webster is 18 miles south of Worcester; 56 miles southwest of Boston; 33 miles northwest of Providence, Rhode Island; and 160 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 14.53 sq. miles

Land Area: 12.49 sq. miles

Population: 16,196

Density: 1,297 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Buffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Oxford, Webster

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 943-0033

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1832

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 8,113

Democrats 3,356 41.4 % Republicans 646 8.0 % Other parties 3 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 4,108 50.6 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Webster town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	16,415	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	16,415	100.0
Male.....	7,901	48.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	649	4.0
Female.....	8,514	51.9	Mexican.....	26	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,081	6.6	Puerto Rican.....	454	2.8
5 to 9 years.....	1,058	6.4	Cuban.....	9	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,095	6.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	160	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	884	5.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15,766	96.0
20 to 24 years.....	905	5.5	White alone.....	15,246	92.9
25 to 34 years.....	2,370	14.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,645	16.1	Total population.....	16,415	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,172	13.2	In households.....	16,147	98.4
55 to 59 years.....	813	5.0	Householder.....	6,905	42.1
60 to 64 years.....	658	4.0	Spouse.....	3,136	19.1
65 to 74 years.....	1,160	7.1	Child.....	4,576	27.9
75 to 84 years.....	1,144	7.0	Own child under 18 years.....	3,523	21.5
85 years and over.....	430	2.6	Other relatives.....	583	3.6
Median age (years).....	38.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	183	1.1
18 years and over.....	12,599	76.8	Nonrelatives.....	947	5.8
Male.....	5,928	36.1	Unmarried partner.....	526	3.2
Female.....	6,671	40.6	In group quarters.....	268	1.6
21 years and over.....	12,148	74.0	Institutionalized population.....	259	1.6
62 years and over.....	3,131	19.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	9	0.1
65 years and over.....	2,734	16.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,043	6.4	Total households.....	6,905	100.0
Female.....	1,691	10.3	Family households (families).....	4,271	61.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,950	28.2
One race.....	16,204	98.7	Married-couple family.....	3,136	45.4
White.....	15,564	94.8	With own children under 18 years.....	1,248	18.1
Black or African American.....	183	1.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	814	11.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	56	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	521	7.5
Asian.....	156	1.0	Nonfamily households.....	2,634	38.1
Asian Indian.....	37	0.2	Householder living alone.....	2,186	31.7
Chinese.....	16	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	931	13.5
Filipino.....	7	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,096	30.4
Japanese.....	7	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,895	27.4
Korean.....	11	0.1	Average household size.....	2.34	(X)
Vietnamese.....	18	0.1	Average family size.....	2.94	(X)
Other Asian ¹	60	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	7,554	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	6,905	91.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	649	8.6
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	211	2.8
Some other race.....	245	1.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	211	1.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	6,905	100.0
White.....	15,755	96.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,728	54.0
Black or African American.....	231	1.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	3,177	46.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	131	0.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.55	(X)
Asian.....	189	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.09	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-			
Some other race.....	319	1.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 118

Conventional Federal: 61

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 8

Federal (Section 8): 35



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 12 and 16 and Interstate Route 395 running N-S.

Rail

There is no passenger rail service in Webster. Freight rail service is provided by the Providence and Worcester Railroad. Contact number: (508) 755-4000 ext. 310

Bus

Webster is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), which provides fixed route service between Auburn, Oxford, Webster, and Worcester.

Other

Southbridge Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Southbridge, has a 3,500'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Hubbard Regional Hospital

Long Term Care

Lanessa Extended Care Fac.

Oakwood Convalescent Home

Webster House LTCF

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.